

**CLAIMS LISTING:**

1. – 35. (cancelled).

36. (new) An electro-surgical apparatus, comprising:  
an electrode with a cutting edge; and  
a housing coupled to the electrode and including a top with a top proximal section and a bottom with a bottom proximal section, the top proximal section having a geometry that facilitates creation of a skin flap with a substantially uniform thickness that includes a skin layer and an adjacent layer of subcutaneous tissue, the bottom proximal section having a geometry that preserves a plane of tissue that is positioned adjacent to the adjacent layer of subcutaneous tissue, the bottom proximal section having a most proximal point at "A", and the top proximal section having a most proximal point at "B" with A being more proximal than B, bottom proximal section defined by point A and a more distal point "C" with the electrode extending from point A to point B, the electrode forms a hypotenuse of a triangle defined by points A, B, and a point D that is positioned at a more proximal position than point B, bottom proximal section forming a hypotenuse of a triangle defined by points A, C and a point E with point E being more proximal than point C, a distance between points D and A being 1 mm to 2.5 cm, a distance between points D and B can being 0 mm to 1.5 cm, a distance between points A and E being 0 mm to 1.5 cm, and a distance between points E and C being 0 mm to 1.5 cm.

37. (new) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the housing includes a gap between the top proximal section and the bottom proximal section.

38. (new) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the housing includes a chamber that facilitates creation of the skin flap.

39. (new) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising:  
an insulator coupled to at least a portion of the electrode.